



NOTICE OF DECISION

TRIBUNAL REFERENCE NUMBER: APW/008/2023-24/AT

APPELLANT: Councillor Steven Bletsoe

RELEVANT AUTHORITY: Bridgend Town Council

1. An Appeal Tribunal convened by the President of the Adjudication Panel for Wales ('APW') has considered an appeal by the Appellant against the decision of the Bridgend County Borough Council ('BCBC') Standards Committee that he should be suspended for a period of **six** months.
2. The allegation, in summary, was that the Appellant had breached the Code of Conduct of Bridgend Town Council by his failure to declare a personal and prejudicial interest and by his subsequent input at meetings in relation to a set of draft minutes. The minutes had recorded details of a dispute between his wife and a Town Council officer during a meeting of the Regeneration Committee in June 2022.
3. By decision of the President of the APW dated 5 June 2024 the appeal had been allowed to proceed on limited grounds of appeal only in relation to the sanction imposed by the Standards Committee. The decision emphasised that the findings of fact established by the Standards Committee and the findings of breach of the Code of Conduct would stand and could not proceed to this Appeal Tribunal. For the avoidance of doubt, the finding of Code breaches by the Standards Committee related to Paragraphs 6(1)(a), 7(a), 11(1), 14(1)(a), 14(1)(c) and 14(1)(e) of the Code of Conduct.
4. At a hearing on 5 December 2024, at the Port Talbot Justice Centre, the Appeal Tribunal, by unanimous decision, decided to refer the matter back to the BCBC

Standards Committee with a recommendation that the Appellant should be suspended for 10 weeks.

4. The Relevant Authority, being Bridgend Town Council, and BCBC Standards Committee are notified accordingly.
5. The Reasoned Decision Report will be published on the APW website in due course.

Signed.....  Date 5 December 2024

Chairperson of the Case Tribunal: Ms C Jones

Case Tribunal Member: Dr G Jones

Case Tribunal Member: Mr D Morris